

Code 425

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF SHIPS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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All/Crossroads
C-S(99)-(1)(425)

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16 FEB 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Crossroads Target Vessels

Ref: (a) CNO ltr. Serial 0157P36 of 24 June 1947.
(b) BuShips ltr. C-S99-1(689)-(425) of 23 July 1947.
(c) CNO ltr. Serial 022P36 of 26 January 1948.

1. Reference (a) requested that the Chief of the Bureau of Ships submit to the Chief of Naval Operations a schedule for the completion of studies on those surviving target vessels from Operation CROSSROADS which were designated for retention for detailed radiological and structural study by the Bureau of Ships. Reference (b) contained a tentative schedule for completion of the technical inspections required on those target vessels which were returned for study at various Naval Shipyards and suggested that the status of work on these vessels be reviewed prior to the formulation of plans for their ultimate disposition. Reference (b) also indicated that the use of those target vessels which were retained at Kwajalein for use in the radiological safety program is dependent upon the development of decontamination techniques and materials and that retention of two vessels, FALLON (APA 81) and MAYRANT (DD402), would provide adequate material for field testing of such techniques and materials. Reference (c) requested that the Chief of the Bureau of Ships indicate the surviving target vessels which are required for further retention for radiological, structural, or decontamination studies.

2. The Bureau of Ships has reviewed the requirement for further retention of the surviving target vessels, listed in enclosure (A) of reference (a), which previously have been designated for retention for radiological, structural, and decontamination studies. The results of this review are as follows:

a. The required structural and radiological studies have been completed on the vessels listed below. It is considered that further retention of these vessels will be of no benefit to this Bureau.

SHIP	LOCATION
USS NEW YORK (BB34)	PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS NEVADA (BB36)	PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS PENSACOLA (CA24)	PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS SALT LAKE CITY (CA25)	PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS CRITTENDEN (APA77)	SAN FRANCISCO NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS GASCONADE (APA85)	SAN FRANCISCO NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS SKIPJACK (SS184)	MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
USS SKATE (SS305)	MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD

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b. The required radiological studies have been completed on the vessels listed below which previously have been designated for retention at Kwajalein. It is considered that further retention of these vessels will be of no benefit to this Bureau.

USS BRISCOE (APA65)	USS MUGFORD (DD389)
USS BRULE (APA66)	USS MAYRANT (DD402)
USS DAWSON (APA79)	USS RHIND (DD404)
USS FALLON (APA81)	USS STACK (DD406)

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c. It is desired that USS INDEPENDENCE (CVL22) be retained at San Francisco Naval Shipyard until 1 February 1949 to permit completion of the required structural, radiological, and decontamination studies. It is considered that retention of this vessel will satisfy the requirements of this Bureau for material suitable for field testing of decontamination techniques and materials.

d. It is desired that USS HUGHES (DD410) be retained at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard until 1 July 1948 to permit completion of the required structural and radiological studies.

3. It is suggested that the status of USS INDEPENDENCE (CVL22) and USS HUGHES (DD410) be re-examined before plans are formulated for their ultimate disposition.

4. In view of the shortage of berthing space at Naval Shipyards involved and of the expense and difficulty of maintaining proper security on the CROSSROADS target vessels anchored in remote or adjacent areas, it is recommended that consideration be given to the early disposition of those target vessels, listed in paragraph 2(a), on which the required studies have been completed.

/s/ H.E. HAVEN, Capt., USN
By direction

H.E. Haven
By direction of
Chief of Bureau

CC: BUORD
BUAER
BUMED
BUY&D
COMNAVSHIPYD PUGET SOUND
COMNAVSHIPYD PEARL HARBOR
COMNAVSHIPYD SAN FRANCISCO
COMNAVSHIPYD MARE ISLAND
ATCOMKWAJALEIN
COMWESSEAFRON